

**Goal 3:**

**4-H youth will develop an ethic of philanthropy and civic engagement.**

*Arkansas*

## **Hands to Larger Service**

**Situation:**

Offering young people the opportunity to “give back” to their community has become an Arkansas 4-H focus area. A community service component has been added to several major statewide events including the largest summer event: the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama held on the campus of the University of Arkansas. Due to limited faculty/staff time to coordinate this component, the state 4-H faculty contacted the Arkansas Adult Volunteer Leaders Association for assistance. The Association agreed to provide a volunteer coordinator the event.

**Program Description:**

The Hands to Larger Service project was conducted during the state competitive activity and was offered as an optional activity when 4-H members were not in a competitive activity. The Service project was entirely coordinated by a volunteer. Four projects were selected for 4-H members and adults to complete at the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. Two time slots were offered and all four projects were scheduled in a central location so that in addition to community service the teens would have opportunities to socialize with their peers. The four projects were: Red Cross First Aid Kits and Hygiene Kits; Sharing and Caring Boxes; Comfort Bears (specific patterns were used by members to bring stitched bears to O-Rama to be stuffed and completed to be given to Children’s Shelters, hospitals, and law enforcement officials) and the 4-H Can Make a Difference canned food drive for the Food Bank.

**Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

A representative of the Arkansas Red Cross addressed the 700 4-H members attending the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama and praised their contributions. She stated, “We seldom see such unselfish donations of time and materials to help those less fortunate, I consider it an honor to be association with such outstanding young people as you 4-H members. Your contributions will mean so much to so many in need”. Some of the comments from 4-H members include:

“Sewing bears was a great idea”, “ I learned that we needed to be careful and do a really good job because other people would be receiving the items we made.” “Loved the idea that even though we had two competitive events and could not attend the session we could still bring things to be donated and be a part of the community service”.

**Accomplishments and Impacts:**

132 4-H teens and 19 adult volunteers participated in the 2002 Hands to Larger Service project. Results were outstanding with 1,400 Care Bears being completed, 622 pounds of food donated to local food banks, \$1,000 in first aid supplies and hygiene items donated, 110 First aid kits were completed and 119 Sharing and Caring Boxes were completed. The first aid kits and Sharing and Caring Boxes were donated to the Red Cross.

**Resource Commitment:**

Additional resources for the project consisted of time donated. The project was a gift service from 4-H members and volunteers. Very little professional time was required as volunteers coordinated the event.

**Collaborators:**

Arkansas 4-H Adult Volunteer Leaders' Association, Arkansas Red Cross, Arkansas Food Bank

**Contact Person(s):**

Priscella Thomas, 4-H Assistant, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203, Phone: 501-671-Fax: 501-671-2028, Email: [pthomas@uaex.edu](mailto:pthomas@uaex.edu)

Diane Miller

4-H Volunteer

Phone: 479-736-2946 e-mail: [dispaint@hotmail](mailto:dispaint@hotmail.com)

**Base program areas to which this program applies:**

4-H Youth Development, Leadership & Volunteer Development

---

*Connecticut*

## **Parenting**

**Situation:**

Data suggests that a healthy and productive citizen in the 21st century will need to be skillful in interpersonal communication skills and confident in his/her ability to express themselves with people from diverse and divergent backgrounds.

**Program Description:**

4-H offered skill building workshops and programs in public speaking to youth participating in local 4-H Clubs.

**Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

0.15 FTE committed to program. High level of satisfaction.

**Accomplishments and Impacts:**

96 youth increased their skills in public speaking (material organization and delivery). Youth demonstrated their proficient use of public speaking skills by: 45 conducted a

demonstration, illustrated talk, or speech during the Public speaking contest, Public Days at the Beardsley Zoo, or 4-H Night at the Redding Grange, two (2) delivered oral reasons for horse judging placements at the State contest, 39 youth successfully conducted a loan presentation before a committee of three business volunteers for their youth run business, 39 youth successfully presented their business at the local Youth Entrepreneur Conference, 13 youth served as commentators at various 4-H activities. Three (3) youth were successfully interviewed on a 1/2 hour radio show on 99.9FM in Bridgeport.

**Resource Commitment:**

N/A

**Collaborators:**

N/A

**Contact Person:**

Ede Valliquette, Extension Educator, Department of Extension, University of Connecticut, 67 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel, CT 06801. 203/207-3264 (P), 203/207-3273 (F)  
E-mail: [evalliq@canr.uconn.edu](mailto:evalliq@canr.uconn.edu)

**Base program areas to which this program applies:**

Family Development and Resource Management  
4H Youth Development

---

## **Feeding the Hungry**

### **Situation:**

Richland County has a small population of 16,000, but our rural community still faces the problem of hunger. During the holiday season charitable giving is high, but during the non-holiday months the food supply is low at the food pantry.

### **Program Description:**

The Richland County 4-H Federation Club (comprised of high school youth) created an adult/youth partnership with the youth development educator to co-write a grant funded by Kraft Foods, Inc., through the National 4-H Council. The 4-H Federation Club contacted various community civic groups, churches, government officials, and 4-H clubs requesting pledges with which to apply for a \$3,000.00 matching funds grant through the National 4-H Council. The Federation obtained the \$3,000.00 Feeding the Hungry Food matching funds grant, then began several programs to help feed the hungry. The Good Samaritan food pantry serves the entire county; they are our partners and are the recipients of all cans and money for the grant. In addition, to collecting monetary contributions from the community and being able to match them with the grant, the Federation started a Club Can Competition between the 4-H clubs of Richland County. The club that collects the most non-perishable food items will be awarded a prize, given by the Richland County 4-H Federation. The Federation started community wide locations to serve as drop-off points where community members may deposit food items throughout the year. A drop-off point was created at the Richland County Treasurer's Office and at the Richland County Fairgrounds during fair week. Also, a display was created and exhibited during fair week. The display highlighted the Richland County 4-H Federation efforts on the Feeding the Hungry Grant and expressed the need to donate items throughout the year. \$50.00 seed and plant money was given to the Young Gardener's Club to help them raise fresh produce, which would be donated to the local domestic violence shelter and the local senior citizen center. Space on Main Street was donated for selling their excess produce, so the young gardener's produce project will be self-sustaining in years to come. Youth also were engaged in a "hands-on" opportunity to help serve the community during the summer. Fifteen youth from the Richland County 4-H Federation volunteered their time and service to the Good Samaritan. Volunteers helped families with clothing selections, packed grocery orders, stocked shelves, and did odd jobs at the Good Samaritan. Many members and local Boy Scouts were available to provide assistance in delivering the food to the food pantry.

### **Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

The Extension Youth Educator assumed the duties of the adult coordinator for the food grant and with the help from the teenage coordinator was able to acquire resources for the project. The educator provided assistance to the youth whenever appropriate. The Richland County 4-H Federation youth were very eager to take part in helping the community. The activities that the youth participated in provided development to their life skills, as they learned how to interact with community members, and as they gained knowledge of the hunger issues affecting their community in Richland County. Each

week dozens of individuals rely on the Good Samaritan as a source of food with which to feed their families. 150-200 families per month receive groceries, clothing and sometimes-emergency funds from this program. The adult volunteers were lavish in their praise of the teens working in the food pantry, and looked forward to working with them. They said it restored their faith in young people and invited them back to help throughout the summer and the year. They expressed their appreciation to the teenagers, and a nice intergenerational rapport was established with the older volunteers, some of whom are in their 70's and 80's.

### **Accomplishments and Impacts:**

So far, over \$8,362.92 has been raised to help in the efforts of the Feeding the Hungry Project. The Richland County 4-H Federation exceeded their goal of \$6,000.00. Over 560 canned and boxed food items were collected and donated to the Good Samaritan. Youth involved with the project became more aware of poverty and hunger issues in Richland County. Many of the high school teen youth remarked that they enjoyed volunteering their time, and that they planned to continue to assist the Good Samaritan in the future. The community as a whole was made more aware of hunger issues that face the county. The grant was heavily publicized with the local media sources. Several articles have appeared in the local newspaper, the *Olney Daily Mail*, a few announcements were broadcast over the local radio stations WVLN/WSEI, letters were sent to churches, civic groups, government agencies, Vacation Bible Schools and 4-H clubs detailing the grant process and the hunger issues that are in our county. The impact will continue when this grant ends. At our request, the local hospital plans to hold a canned food drive for early fall; the local crop walk will donate 25% of their September big "food walk" to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. The Feeding the Hungry project is still continuing to grow and touch the lives of more individuals, and the public is more aware of local needs.

### **Resource Commitment:** Monetary support was received from the following:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| * Charles C. Roberts--\$25.00        | * Pork Producers--\$100.00                 |
| * St. Paul's Methodist Church--\$120 | * Golden Harvesters 4-H Club--\$20.00      |
| * Olney Rotary Club --\$100.00       | * Builders of the Future 4-H Club--\$30.00 |
| * Clever Clovers 4-H Club--\$25.00   | * Do It Yourself 4-H Club--\$50.00         |
| * Christian Church of Olney--\$100   | * Noble Christian Church--\$50.00          |
| * Vacation Bible School--\$50.00     | * Trinity Lutheran Church--\$843.26        |
| * First United Methodist--\$2,416.43 | * St. Joseph's Catholic Church--\$1,000.00 |

**Collaborators:** The following is a list of collaborators that helped with the Feeding the Hungry Program: various Richland County 4-H Clubs, Richland County Treasurer--Shelia Ritter (government agencies), the Good Samaritan of Richland County, Richland Memorial Hospital, churches which pledged support, Young Gardener's Club, and Boy Scouts.

### **Contact Person:**

Barbara J. Roberts, Youth Development Educator, University of Illinois Extension Lawrence/Richland Unit, 306 S. Fair ~ P.O. Box 130, Olney, IL 62450

Phone: (618) 395-2191 Fax: 618-392-4906 E-mail: robertsb@mail.aces.uiuc.edu

**Base program areas to which this program applies:**

- 4-H Youth Development
  - Nutrition, Diet, and Health
  - Leadership & Volunteer Development
- 

*Illinois*

## **Government Day**

**Situation:**

Local government exists in order to provide services to citizens. Yet, many voters, if they go to the polls at all, elect people to offices with little understanding of the functions of those offices. Without this knowledge, how can we know where to go when we have a problem or project to discuss? Without this knowledge, how can we know what qualifications would be desirable for local officials? The objectives of Government Day are; to give the students first-hand knowledge and experience working in various county government positions; to appreciate the contributions of local governments to our quality of life; and to identify whom to go to with specific local issues. This program is an exceptional learning opportunity provided by the University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County Unit and 4-H.

**Program Description:**

The Government Day program is two-fold, first the writing of essays and second, learning about county government. Youth in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade write an essay in regards to a specific local official job. Officials then judge the essays based on content. Contest essays are between 100 and 200 words and are without personal reference. At least one youth per official is selected to participate in the Government Day programming and job shadow that official. Job shadowing is a major focus of the program with youth spending anywhere from one to three hours with the local official. Activities of Government Day include tour of the County Administration Building, County Board video, snacks, presentation on Public Policy, mock County Board committee meetings, mock County Board meeting, tour of County Jail, lunch and presentation of certificates and t-shirts. Students experience how elected officials formulate policy in committee and conduct their own county board meeting. The Committee meetings and County Board meeting involve the discussion of an issue previously prepared by the County Administrator and Extension staff. There is optional attendance at the evening County Board with youth recognized during the meeting for participation in Government Day.

**Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

The Community Worker of the University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County Unit coordinates the Government Day programming. The Extension Unit Educator and the Unit Leader assist this staff person. Many area children participate in the program. Youth may participate each year they are eligible. An average of over 750 essays are received each year and approximately 50 to 60 youth are selected to participate in the

Government Day programming and Job Shadowing experience. Youth learn about various jobs, the function of local government, leadership training, public policy, and develop an ethic of civic engagement.

**Accomplishments and Impacts:**

Government Day has been a part of the University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County Unit for 24 years. Each year the Extension Office receives an average of over 750 essays. Approximately 50 to 60 youth participate in the Government Day and Job Shadowing program each year. Program evaluations are distributed to both county officials and participating youth. Youth are full partners in evaluating this educational experience. Evaluation results have been positive. Local officials believe that the program educates youth about the importance of local governments. The youth gain an understanding that they can make a difference. Response from youth have included; "Because of this program I learned how to make a motion," "I learned how a County Board meeting is run," "I learned leadership qualities, teamwork, and speaking skills," "I learned government information, how the county works and who is involved in the county," "I got to see the important work done," and "I learned a better idea of planning things and what steps to go through." Responses to "The most important thing I learned was..." included answers such as public policy, you have a say in anything, listening skills, and the importance of thinking ahead. Future use of the information included planning a club in a more official way, to speak up, to listen better, to try to persuade other youth to make their life much better than it would, otherwise have been, and planning for the future. Learning standards include Language Arts, Social Sciences, and Workplace Skills and Career Development.

Recently, the Grundy County Unit of the University of Illinois Extension has been provided with the opportunity to assist with a new program related to local government. The current development of a Local Government Curriculum for high school students is to be piloted Fall 2002 by University of Illinois Extension. Morris Community High School, Morris, IL will be a site for one of the pilot programs. The Unit Leader from the University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County Unit serves on the committee developing this innovative and unconventional education program based on the models of learning by doing and community service.

**Resource Commitment:**

All funds are expended through internal resources. Expenditures include postage, copying, secretarial time, certificates and food served at the luncheon. The County Board donates the morning refreshments, pencils, and t-shirts. Volunteers include Grundy County HEA, county officials, and other community members who provide transportation.

**Collaborators:**

Collaborators include superintendents, principals, and teachers from local schools servicing 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, County Board, Circuit Judge, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, States Attorney, County Treasurer, Sheriff, Superintendent of Education, Superintendent of Highways, Health Department, ESDA, Assessments, Building and

Zoning, Human Services, County Home, Public Defender, Juvenile Probation, Adult Probation, Headstart, Coroner, Solid Waste, Political Reporter, GEDC, County Board Secretary, Animal Control, Farm Bureau, County Administrator, Chamber of Commerce, University of Illinois Extension Center Educators, University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County Unit Leader and Unit Youth Educator.

**Contact Persons:**

Debra Jo Kinsella, MBA – Unit Leader, University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County  
Wendy J. P. Badarello, MA – Unit Educator, Youth Development, University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County, Christine Perry – Community Worker, Youth and Family, University of Illinois Extension, Grundy County, 1802 N. Division Street, Suite 604, Morris, IL 60450  
Ph. 815-942-2725 Fax 815-942-9519

**Base Program Areas to Which this Program Applies:**

4-H Youth Development

Leadership and Volunteer Development

---

*New Hampshire*

**Mini-Society®**

**Situation:**

New Hampshire is well known for both its unique government (4<sup>th</sup> largest governing body in the world; no income or sales taxes) and strong entrepreneurial climate. The state capacity to fairly support a balance of public services is deeply dependent on the development of capable young people who understand and value civic participation, and who prepare themselves for a workforce currently dominated by small businesses and services.

**Program Description:**

4-H Mini-Society® is an intense, experiential 30-hour program for 8-12 year youth, designed to inspire young entrepreneurs and citizens to apply their own creativity to real world problem solving. Participating youth develop a self-organizing economic society in partnership with trained adult facilitators. As they seek alternative solutions to problems of scarcity within their society, youth businesses emerge and town councils are held to resolve issues that are economic, social, political, and ethical in nature. Adult facilitators are trained to wait for “trigger moments” when consultative guidance can foster deep understanding and a desire to learn more.

The program was introduced to New Hampshire 4-H through a New England partnership. In the past two years, one-third (n=100) of the New England Mini-Society® participants have been from eight sites in New Hampshire. The program was conducted in partnership with local after school programs in four communities, and a coalition of home school families in one county.



**Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

Nine volunteer facilitators committed 5.6% FTE, including 20 hours of training, 30 hours of program implementation, and 15 hours of recruitment, marketing, program implementation, evaluation and reporting. Youth participants (n=100) completed an average of 24 hours of program time (80% attendance rate). In all cases, a majority of youth did not want the program to end.

**Accomplishments and Impacts:**

Although different concepts are emphasized in each 4-H Mini-Society® program, depending on the problems the youth encounter and try to solve, an assessment using a teacher/facilitator observation checklist indicates that a core of basic lessons emerges in each program. All participants (n=100, 100%) demonstrated improvement in making decisions for themselves, and working together to solve problems. Almost all (n=97, 97%) also showed improvement resolving conflicts, taking on leadership roles, and expressing themselves verbally. A majority of youth also learned important economic and civic lessons, including the value of town meetings for solving community problems (n=93, 93%), identifying the costs of starting a business (n=80, 80%), and concepts of scarcity, inflation, and market mechanisms (n=94, 94%).

Program facilitators reported surprise at how well the program worked, especially with those youth who have learning disabilities or those with challenging behaviors. Several parents at each site observed youth being more careful with resources, and discussing concepts of scarcity and democracy at home.

**Resource Commitment:**

A \$20,000 grant from Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership supported this program New England-wide. Approximately one-third (\$3,400) was used for training and programmatic support of the New Hampshire program sites.

**Collaborators:** County 4-H Educators, Housing Authorities, after school programs, home school families, Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

**Contact Person:**

Paula J. Gregory, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, 180 Main Street, Moiles House, Durham, NH 03824, Phone: (603) 862-2909, Fax (603) 862-2157

**Base Program areas to which this program applies:**

4-H Youth Development

---

## **Middlesex County 4-H Teen Council Sponsors “Project GIFT”**

### **Situation:**

Many teens want to give back to their community, however feel that they alone cannot make a difference. Teen Council’s Project GIFT (a holiday shopping event for limited resource families) provides an opportunity for teens to work in a group to provide a significant impact on the lives of those in need in their community.

### **Program Description:**

Project GIFT, a free holiday shopping event for limited resource families, has been planned and implemented by the Middlesex County 4-H Teen Council since 1997. The event is a true youth/adult partnership, as teens work with adult advisors and county staff to make contacts with agencies, solicit funds and donations, apply for grants, purchase materials and gifts, and work to set up and run the event. Contacts are made each year through the 4-H and EFNEP staff to agencies in urban and suburban areas that serve limited resource families. Clients from these organizations are invited to the event, and are offered the option of free bus transportation to the 4-H Center. Teen Council members make contact with local businesses and regional companies to request donations of new clothing, toys, games, wrapping paper, refreshments and other items for the event. Grant proposals are written by Teen Council members, in cooperation with 4-H staff, to various state and community organizations. Teens also use fund raising events such as t-shirt sales, raffles, Adopt-a-Road projects, a clothing drive and the County Fair to raise additional monies for the event. Flyers were created by teens, and drop-off dates for donations were set up to receive items for the event. With monetary donations and funds raised, teens purchased clothing, toys and books for the children being served. They also ordered items for goodie bags for the children ... and for their parents! Bus transportation was organized, refreshments were ordered and the 4-H Center was readied for the parents to “shop” for their children. At the event, teens helped parents find gifts for their children, organized and ran a free gift wrap station, and provided child care which included games, face painting, videos and a visit from Santa Claus. Teens also set up a “freebie table” which included small items that parents could use as “stocking stuffers” or additional gifts. Each parent attending the event left with a bag of gifts for their children to open during the holidays!

### **Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

Project GIFT is the one Teen Council event held during the year that gets the highest percentage of participation by club members. This event is planned year-round, and the months following the event are used for verbal and written evaluation. The project is discussed at each Teen Council meeting, and a monthly progress report is given by each committee. Teens report that Project GIFT is their “favorite” community service activity, and due to the publicity of the project, 4-H members and parents from other clubs have asked to get involved in the event. Overall evaluations from the teens indicate that they receive a strong sense of satisfaction by being involved in Project GIFT, and feel that they are making a positive contribution to the community. Teens report that “this project

makes you realize how lucky you are,” and “there are a lot of people that don’t have things that easy.” Other teens reported that “this is what 4-H is all about and this is what people need to see;” and “it’s nice to do something *real* to help someone and you know they really appreciate and enjoy your help.”

**Accomplishments and Impact:**

The 2001 4-H Project GIFT event reached approximately 178 youth from 11 different Middlesex County agencies. Parents who attended the event reported that they were very happy to have the opportunity to provide holiday gifts for their children, and many also indicated that this was the only way they had to give gifts to their children for the holidays. Parents’ comments included the following: “It was nice to have something for my child to open for Christmas, and for her to see Santa Claus,” and “This was the only way I could have gifts for my kids this year and the teens at the event were helpful and nice.” Almost all evaluations received from participants indicated that they rated the event as “excellent.” Through the efforts of Teen Council members, overall donations received increased in 2001, and three new fund raisers for the event were added. The number of teens and other 4-H members involved in the event grew by about 50% over previous years. The event received publicity for donations, and a visit from a local cable station who videotaped the teens and interviewed them during the set up of the event.

**Resource Commitment:**

Approximately \$2500 in grants and donated items were generated and an additional \$950 was raised through Teen Council fund raisers. A \$250 grant was received from the NJ 4-H Development Fund, \$200 was received from the Middlesex County 4-H Association, \$900 in merchandise was donated by Komar, Inc. (a NYC clothing company), \$100 was donated from the American Legion Auxiliary, and toys, clothing, books and refreshments were donated from businesses such as McDonalds, Wawa, Wal Mart, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Babies R Us, local bakeries, Pathmark, Shop Rite and 4-H families and individuals.

**Collaborators:**

Project GIFT received collaboration from many different organizations, including the following: Middlesex County Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, Edison Center for Community Renewal, Browntown Bus Company (bus transportation), FISH Hospitality Program (Piscataway), Women Aware, Inc. (Battered Women’s Shelter), Escalar Latch Key Program of the Puerto Rican Association, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County staff.

**Contact Person:**

Laura Bovitz, 4-H Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County  
390 George Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: (732) 745-3446 Fax: (732) 745-3476 E-Mail: [bovitz@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:bovitz@aesop.rutgers.edu)

**Base program areas to which this program applies:**

*New York*

## **El Quince Council Gardens Project**

### **Situation:**

Genesee County Nursing Home was reaching out into the community to form a partnership with a youth group. A newly formed 4-H club was looking for an opportunity to do a large scale community service project.

### **Program Description:**

El Quince Council, a community service 4-H club in Genesee County with membership aged 12 and older, was formed in 1998. The purpose was to provide a 4-H atmosphere in which youth would learn leadership skills. The members of this club are totally responsible for any project they choose, from planning through implementing. The leader serves only as a guide. Almost immediately, they received a proposal of a partnership with the Genesee County Nursing Home. Discussion between the club and Nursing Home Administration determined that the best way for El Quince Council to serve the nursing home would be to create a garden to be enjoyed and used by the nursing home staff and residents. Research was conducted with landscape architects designing gardens for a hospice, and at Cornell University, and Genesee County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Plants were chosen for their therapeutic as well as aesthetic value. The result was a cutting garden with two brick walkways and a spring bulb garden containing over 1500 bulbs located in a fenced area. The gardens were researched, designed, planted, and jointly maintained (with nursing home maintenance staff) by El Quince Council members. In 1999 a construction project at the nursing home appeared to put a halt to any further garden plans. The Nursing Home Administration was so impressed with the professional look of the previous gardens that they offered the club a front entrance area in which to continue the project. A water garden within a perennial garden and an herb garden were researched, designed, planted and maintained, again with excellent results. In 2001, with the impact of September 11th, El Quince Council wanted to do something to help Genesee County residents get past the tragedy and remember those lost. A remembrance garden was researched and designed. The idea was presented to the Nursing Home Administration and the Genesee County Legislature. It met with resounding approval. The garden design begins in the shape of an American Flag; the stripes of red and white impatiens begin to weave their way through areas planted to represent our country, coast to coast. Blue lobelia represents the Pacific Coast; a "snow capped peak", the Rocky Mountains; ornamental grasses, the Midwest; woodland plants top a smaller "mountain", the Appalachian Mountain Range; and blue lobelia the Atlantic Ocean. The garden ends with the stripes flowing into an area of bleeding hearts and forget-me-nots. Throughout the garden are carved stones saying; *September 11, 2001, Remember... The Children... The Families... The Military... The Heroes...* and the final stone, simply states: *Remember*. The perennial and water garden was also refurbished. It

received a facelift along with the addition of garden signs depicting the towns of Genesee County, in honor of Genesee County's Bicentennial year.

**Stakeholder Satisfaction:**

The enjoyment the gardens bring is very evident. The Genesee County Nursing Home residents, staff, and visitors spend quiet moments in the water garden area. The resident's memories are sometimes triggered by the sight and fragrance of the flowers. The gardens have dramatically changed the look of the nursing home entrance. Visitors to the nursing home are greeted with beautifully landscaped areas. The club's four year project culminated with a special celebration. The garden was dedicated at a ceremony in which members of the community, city and county officials, nursing home residents, staff and administration, representatives from law enforcement, Salvation Army, the Red Cross, and members of the press attended. The ceremony brought the "Genesee Community" together to reflect on the meaning of the gardens and to pray for peace. A Commendation from the Genesee County Legislature was presented to El Quince Council members, recognizing "the importance of youth, adults, and seniors working together" and for providing "beauty and contentment....for the enjoyment and enhancement of life of our citizens in Genesee County." This project received newspaper coverage with two lengthy articles and a letter from the editor praising the club's citizenship, patriotism, love of community and service to others. The results of the impact of this project will continue into the future. This club is now viewed as a club that "can make things happen". Legislators and community members are suggesting this group and 4-H when ideas are ready to be put into place for community events and projects.

**Accomplishments and Impacts:**

Throughout this project the club members have developed skills that will last a lifetime; organizational skills, the importance of research and planning, making connections within the community, public speaking, how to speak with government officials, responsibility and respect, and a deep seated desire to make a difference in their community. They know that what they do has an impact, and they take pride in their accomplishments. These projects had an effect on the club that they did not anticipate; they became a "family". Each knows the other's strengths that can be called upon and they are there to help each other out when needed.

**Resource Commitment:**

All resources were provided by the Genesee County Nursing Home; discounts from local nurseries and vendors were given for the project.

**Collaborators:**

The Genesee County Nursing Home, Genesee County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Pudgies Lawn and Garden, Scott's Florist and Greenhouse, Tim Richely and Dan Malone – Landscape Architects, Ulbrich's Nursery, Top O' The World Gardens, Stabell Studios, Genesee County Historians, Genesee County Legislature, Cornell University, Delre's Greenhouse and Garden Center, Scalia's Landscaping, Genesee County Nursing Home Daycare Program.

**Contact Person:**

Sherri Lovria, El Quince Council Leader, Genesee County Cooperative Extension, 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020-2599 Phone: (585) 343-3040 Email: [sll19@cornell.edu](mailto:sll19@cornell.edu)

**Base program areas to which this program applies:**

4-H Youth Development, Community Resource & Economic Development, Leadership & Volunteer Development